

REMARKS**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

The claims are 1-24, 26-28, 30-32, 34-37 and 39. Claims 25, 26, 29, 33, 38, 40 and 41 are cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 24, 27, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36 and 37 are amended. No new matter is raised.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 24, 27, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36 and 37 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Claims 2, 3 and 5 are amended to change their dependencies. Claims 24 is amended to represent the subject matter of claim 13 from the prior amendment in independent form. Claim 27 is amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 30, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 36 are amended to provide greater internal claim consistency in light of the amendment to claim 24, from which they ultimately depend. Claim 37 is amended to incorporate the subject matter from claim 38. No new matter is raised by the present amendments.

CLAIM REJECTIONS/ OBJECTIONS

The Office has rejected claims 37 and 40 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Ahr et al., US Patent 4,323,069. The Office has also rejected claims 1, 5-7, 12, 16, 20, 24, 25, 29, 33 and 39 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahr in view of Biagioli et al., US Patent 5,635,275.

Claims 2-4, 13-15, 17-19, 26-28, 30-32, 34-36, 38 and 41 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Office indicated that such claims contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

The subject matter of claim 1 has been amended to present the subject matter of claim 2 in independent form. The subject matter of claim 13 is now presented in independent form in claim 24. And, the subject matter of claim 38 is now presented in independent form as amended claim 37. Allowance of claims 1, 24 and 37 is respectfully solicited.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-23 all depend from and further limit claim 1. Claims 2, 5, 27, 28, 30-32 and 34-36 all depend from and further limit claim 24. Claim 39 depends from and further limits claim 37. Allowance of claims 2, 3-23, 27, 28, 30-32, 34-36, and 39 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

An early Notice of Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. A. Tessari', is written over a horizontal line.

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